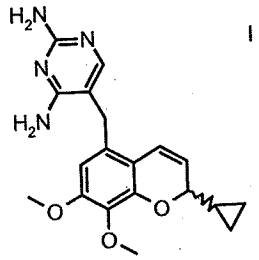
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

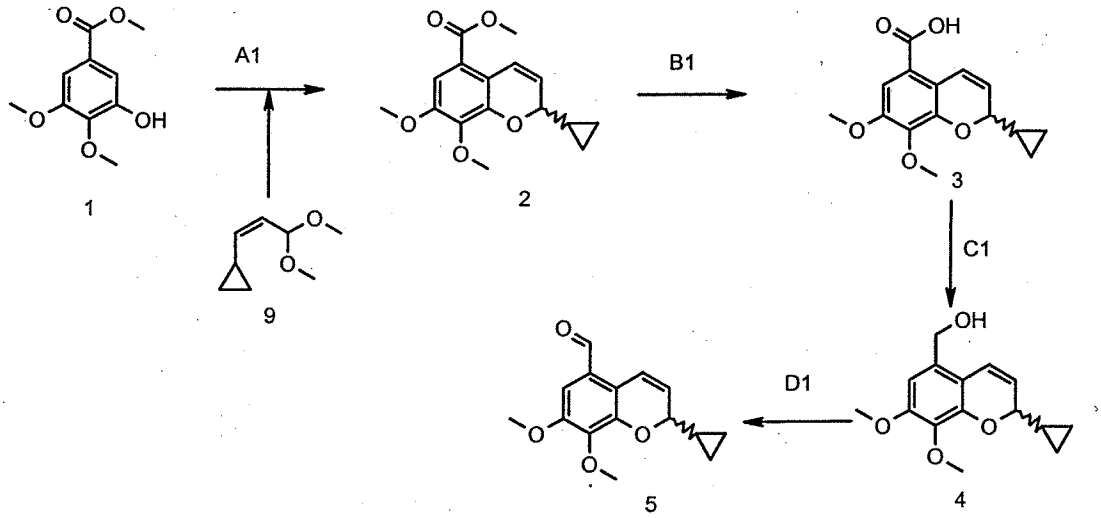
1. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing the compound of formula I



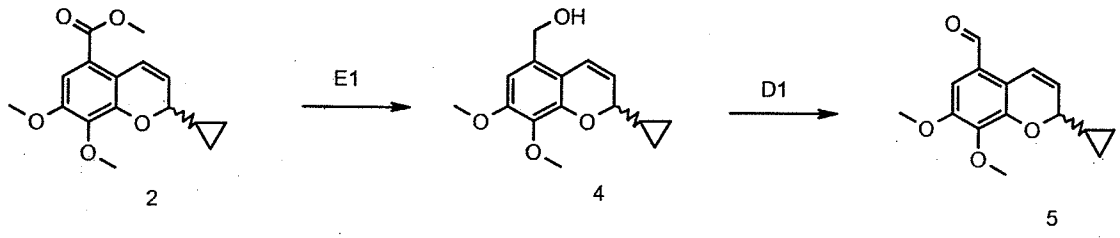
I

comprising:

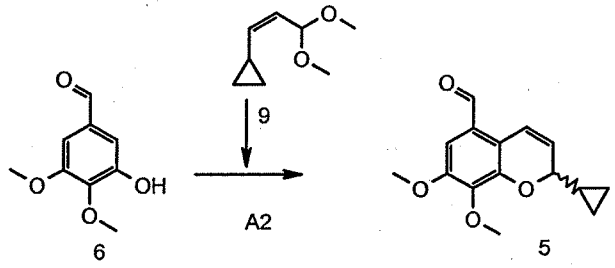
a) reacting either a compound of formula 1 with a compound of formula 9 to obtain a compound of formula 2, which is hydrolyzed to the compound of formula 3, which in turn is reduced to a compound of formula 4 and thereafter oxidized to obtain the compound of formula 5; or



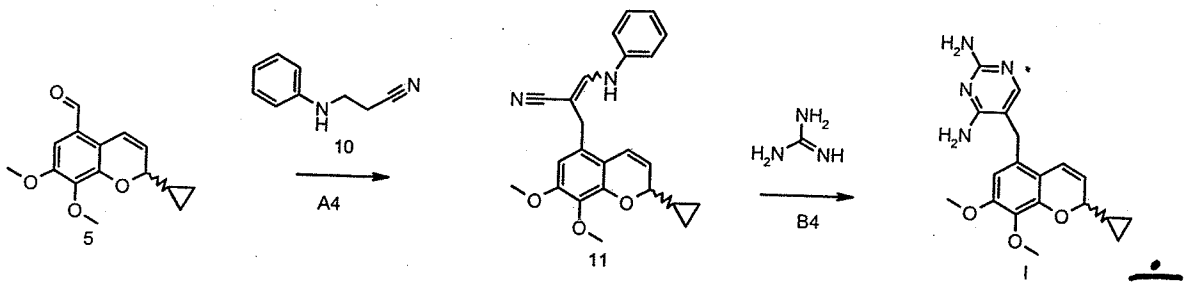
b) reducing the compound of formula 2 directly to the compound of formula 4, and thereafter oxidizing the compound of formula 4 to form the compound of formula 5; or



c) reacting a compound of formula 6 with a compound of formula 9 to obtain the compound of formula 5; and

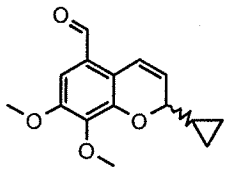


d) transforming the compound of formula 5 into the compound of formula I by reacting the compound of formula 5 which the propionitrile of formula 10 to obtain the compound of formula 11, which is reacted with guanidine to form the compound of formula I, and, if desired, forming a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in a manner known per se.



2. (Original) The process of Claim 1, wherein the compounds of formulae 2, 5 and 11 are used in the subsequent step without isolation.

3. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing the compound of formula 5



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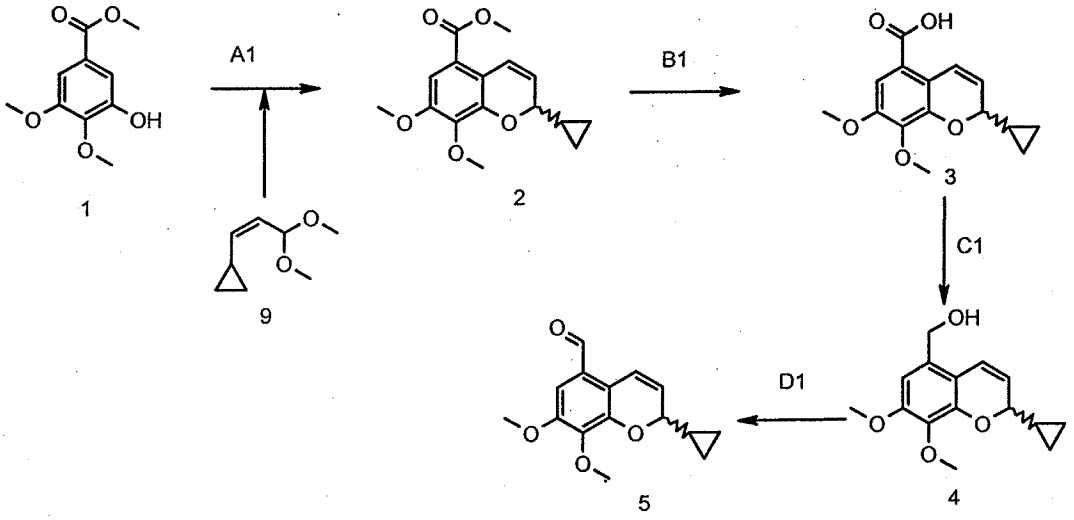
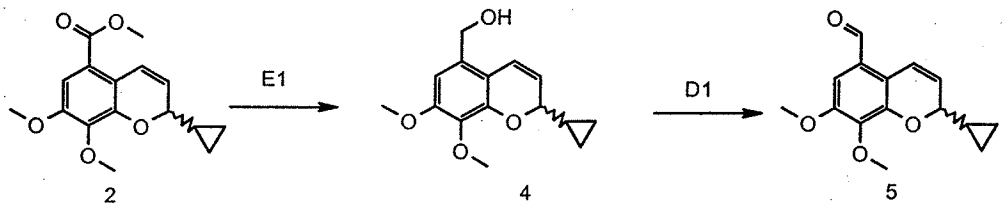
comprising

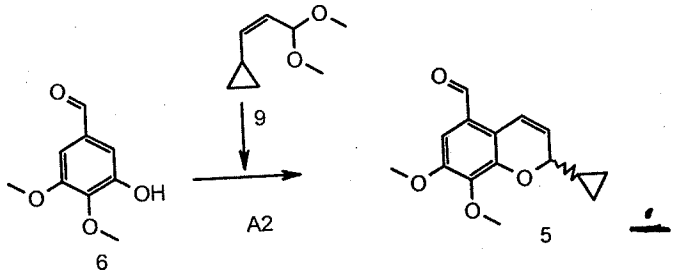
a) reacting a compound of formula 1 with a compound of formula 9 to obtain a compound of formula 2, which is hydrolyzed to the compound of formula 3, which is turn is reduced to a compound of formula 4 and thereafter oxidized to obtain the compound of formula 5; or



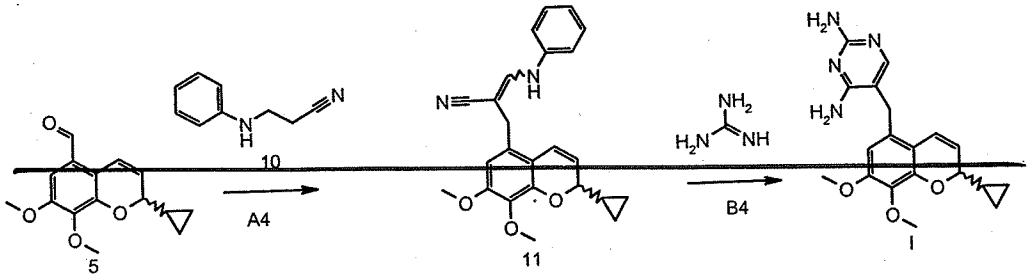
b) reducing the compound of formula 2 directly to the compound of formula 4, and thereafter oxidizing the compound of formula 4 to form the compound of formula 5; or



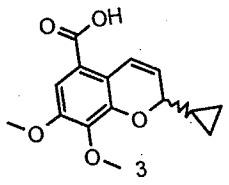
c) reacting a compound of formula 6 with a compound of formula 9 to obtain the compound of formula 5~~; and, if desired,~~.



~~d) transforming the compound of formula 5 into the compound of formula I by reacting the compound of formula 5 with the propionitrile of formula 10 or an analogous derivative thereof to obtain the compound of formula 11 in a manner known per se, which is reacted with guanidine to form the compound of formula I.~~



4. (Currently Amended) The compound of formula 3



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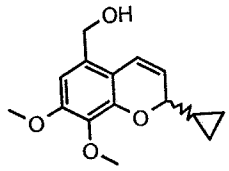
5. (Currently Amended) The compound of formula 4



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